

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a "documentary" slanted against a presidential candidate right before a hotly contested general election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Wasn't it Thomas Jefferson who said that a free press is essential to an informed electorate? Well, Sinclair is not helping inform the electorate. Nor are they respecting the law that obligates them to serve the public interest. They are serving their own financial and partisan interests by abusing the public trust. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, American citizens need to see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.